

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-08 INR-07

LAB-04 NSAE-00 SIL-01 AID-05 OMB-01 TRSE-00 SY-05

MCT-01 OC-06 CCO-00 OPR-02 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01

L-03 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

/104 W

-----292053Z 062953 /56

P R 291710Z APR 77

FM AMEMBASSY MADRID

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 0031

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

USMISSION NATO

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USMISSION GENEVA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELAB, PINT, SP

SUBJECT: MAY 1 LABOR DAY

REF: MADRID 3292

1. ALTHOUGH GOVT POSITION BANNING ANY MAY 1 LABOR DAY MEETINGS STILL STANDS (REFTEL), EMBASSY HAS LEARNED THAT GOVT PLANS NOT RPT NOT REACT HARSHLY TO ANY PEACEFUL DEMONSTRATIONS THAY MAY OCCUR, AND POLICE FORECS WILL BE INSTRUCTED TO LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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"PLAY IT COOL." SYNDICAL RELATIONS MINISTER DE LA MATA CONFIRMED TO IRVING BROWN (AFL-CIO) EVENING APRIL 28 THAT DECISION TO REVERSE EARLIER GOVT PERMISSION HAD COME FROM FIRST VICE PRESIDENT LTGEN GUTIERREZ MELLADO (ACTING PRIME MINISTER IN ABSENCE OF SUAREZ) BASED ON FEARS OF POSSIBLE RIGHT WING PROVOCATIONS. DE LA MATA HAD SUBSEQUENTLY DISCUSSED THE SITUATION WITH INTERIOR MINISTER

MARTIN VILLA, TELLING THE LATTER THAT THERE WERE BOUND TO BE SOME LABOR DAY DEMONSTRATIONS DESPITE THE BAN AND HE HOPED THE POLICE WOULD NOT OVERREACT. MARTIN VILLA, ACCORDING TO DE LA MATA, HAD AGREED TO HAVE THE POLICE KEEP A LOW PROFILE ON SUNDAY, MAY 1.

2. UGT INTERNATIONAL SECRETARY MANUEL SIMON COMMENTED AS FOLLOWS TO IRVING BROWN AND LABATT APRIL 29. UGT, USO AND WORKERS' COMMISSIONS (SWC) HAD MET THE EVENING BEFORE (REFTEL) TO DECIDE ON A COURSE OF ACTION IN MADRID. ALL THREE UNIONS HAD INDICATED THEIR INTENTION TO GATHER PEACEFULLY IN FRONT OF THE RAYO VALLECANO SOCCER STADIUM THE MORNING OF MAY 1. FROM THERE, SWC ELEMENTS INTENDED TO GO TO THE CASA DE CAMPO (MADRID PARK AREA) FOR A LABOR DAY PICNIC TYPE CELEBRATION. THE UGT HAD OPTED INSTEAD TO PROCEED (AS LAST YEAR) TO THE CEMETARY TO PLACE WREATHS ON THE GRAVE OF UGT FOUNDER PABLO IGLESIAS. THE UGT WOULD BE PARTICIPATING AT THE PROVINCIAL MADRID LEVEL, AND SECGEN NICOLAS REDONDO WOULD NOT ATTEND. REDONDO PLANNED TO SPEND THE WEEKEND AT HIS HOME IN BILBAO, PREPARATORY TO DEPARTING WITH SIMON TO THE U.S. ON MONDY, MAY 2. IT WAS SIMON'S IMPRESSION THAT NONE OF THE THREE UNIONS WANTED ANYTHING MORE THAN A PEACEFUL RECOGNITION OF LABOR DAY, ALTHOUGH ALL WERE AWARE THAT EXTREMIST LEFT WING ELEMENTS SUCH AS ORT OR PTE COULD TRY TO PROVOKE A CONFRONTATION WITH SECURITY ELEMENTS.

3. WE EXPECT THAT MARTIN VILLA MAY ADVISE CIVIL GOVERNORS TO ADPT SIMILAR TOLERANT ATTITUDE TOWARD POSSIBLE MAY DAY EVENTS IN PROVINCES. EATON
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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 29-Apr-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
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Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Format: TEL
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